

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4-5.

Please amend claims 1 and 14-20 and add new claim 21 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for treating a cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that is ~~a selective antagonist to an~~ endothelin B receptor (ETB) selective antagonist, wherein said ETB selective antagonist is selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody ~~to a patient in need thereof~~.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 in which the cancer is selected from the group consisting of melanoma, prostate cancer, colon cancer, ovarian cancer or mammary cancer.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2 in which the cancer is melanoma.

Claims 4-5 (canceled)


Claims 6-13 (withdrawn)

14. (currently amended) The method for treating cancer ~~wherein the cancer cells express the endothelin B receptor,~~ comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that is an ETB selective antagonist ~~a selective antagonist to the endothelin B receptor to a patient in need of such treatment,~~ wherein said cancer expresses ETB and not endothelin A receptor (ETA).

15. (currently amended) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the downregulation of

E-cadherin in ~~the a cancer cell to a patient in need of such treatment~~, wherein said compound is an ETB selective antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

16. (currently amended) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound ~~that is a selective antagonist to an endothelin B receptor~~ such that it prevents the downregulation of β -catenin in ~~the a cancer cell to a patient in need of such treatment~~, wherein said compound is an ETB selective antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.


 17. (currently amended) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound ~~that is a selective antagonist to an endothelin B receptor~~ such that it prevents the downregulation of p120^{CTN} in ~~the a cancer cell to a patient in need of such treatment~~, wherein said compound is an ETB selective antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

18. (currently amended) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound ~~that is a selective antagonist to an endothelin B receptor~~ such that it prevents the increased activity of caspase 8 in ~~the a cancer cell to a patient in need of such treatment~~, wherein said compound is an ETB selective antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ETB selective antagonist ~~the compound that is a selective antagonist to an endothelin B receptor~~ is ~~determined~~ evaluated by an *in vitro* assay comprising:

- a) contacting a cell expressing ~~endothelin B receptor~~ ETB and E-cadherin with endothelin and the compound; and
- b) determining the level of E-cadherin expression,
- wherein the level of E-cadherin expression in cells contacted with endothelin in the absence of the compound is decreased compared to the level of E-cadherin expression in cells contacted with endothelin and the compound.

20. (currently amended) A method for treating a cancer, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an ETB selective antagonist ~~a selective endothelin B-receptor antagonist compound~~ selected from the group consisting of BQ788, IRL-1038, and RES-701-1, ~~PD-142893, and H-3596.~~



21. (new) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the downregulation of E-cadherin in a cancer cell, wherein said compound is an ETB selective antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody, wherein said cancer cell treated with said ETB selective antagonist has levels of E-cadherin similar to a cancer cell treated with BQ788 as evaluated by an *in vitro* assay comprising:

- a) contacting a first cell expressing ETB and E-cadherin with endothelin and said ETB selective antagonist;
- b) contacting a second cell expressing ETB and E-cadherin with endothelin and BQ788; and
- c) determining the level of E-cadherin expression in said first and second contacted cells,
- wherein the level of E-cadherin expression in said first cell is similar to the level of E-cadherin expression in said second cell indicates said cancer has been treated.

22. (new) A method for treating a cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that is an endothelin B receptor (ETB) specific antagonist, wherein said ETB specific antagonist is selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

23. (new) The method of Claim 22 in which the cancer is selected from the group consisting of melanoma, prostate cancer, colon cancer, ovarian cancer or mammary cancer.

24. (new) The method of Claim 23 in which the cancer is melanoma.

25. (new) The method of claim 22 wherein said ETB specific antagonist is evaluated by an *in vitro* assay comprising:

a) contacting a cell expressing ETB and E-cadherin with endothelin and the compound; and

b) determining the level of E-cadherin expression, wherein the level of E-cadherin expression in cells contacted with endothelin in the absence of the compound is decreased compared to the level of E-cadherin expression in cells contacted with endothelin and the compound.


26. (new) The method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that is an ETB specific antagonist, wherein said cancer expresses ETB and not endothelin A receptor (ETA).

27. (new) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the downregulation of E-cadherin in a cancer cell, wherein said compound is an ETB specific antagonist selected from the group consisting of

a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

28. (new) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the downregulation of β -catenin in a cancer cell wherein said compound is an ETB specific antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

29. (new) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the downregulation of p120^{CTN} in a cancer cell wherein said compound is an ETB specific antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.



30. (new) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the increased activity of caspase 8 in a cancer cell wherein said compound is an ETB specific antagonist selected from the group consisting of a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody.

31. (new) A method for treating a cancer, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an ETB specific antagonist selected from the group consisting of BQ788, IRL-1038, and RES-701-1.

32. (new) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that prevents the downregulation of E-cadherin in a cancer cell, wherein said compound is an ETB specific antagonist selected from the group consisting of

a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule inhibitor, an ETB antisense molecule, and an ETB antibody, wherein said cancer cell treated with said ETB specific antagonist has levels of E-cadherin similar to a cancer cell treated with BQ788 as evaluated by an *in vitro* assay comprising:

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- a) contacting a first cell expressing ETB and E-cadherin with endothelin and said ETB specific antagonist;
 - b) contacting a second cell expressing ETB and E-cadherin with endothelin and BQ788; and
 - c) determining the level of E-cadherin expression in said first and second contacted cells,

wherein the level of E-cadherin expression in said first cell is similar to the level of E-cadherin expression in said second cell indicates said cancer has been treated.
